

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-62, 64-74, and 76-82 were rejected in an Office Action dated April 10, 2007. An amended Declaration under 37 CFR §1.131 is submitted herewith. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the following remarks.

Declaration under 37 CFR §1.131

The Declaration of Kevin E. Dove has been amended and is attached herewith as Appendix A. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicant's undersigned representative. In an interview with Examiner Pritchard and Examiner Engle, the declaration submitted January 19, 2007 was discussed and what is necessary to make it sufficient to overcome the Hisano reference. The Declaration was therefore amended accordingly to clarify that the claimed invention was reduced to practice at a date prior to the effective date of US Patent Pub. No. 2003/0230859 A1. A copy of the notebook pages originally provided to establish this are attached for convenience. Moreover, the inventor declares that the claimed invention was not on sale or in public use more than one year prior to the filing date of the above-identified application.

Rejections under 35 USC §103(a) – Hisano in view of Payne

Claims 1-5, 7-14, 18-35, 39-62, 64-74, and 76-82 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over Hisano (US 2003/0230859) in view of Payne (US 2,173,744).

In view of the Declaration of Kevin E. Dove, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection is rendered moot. Removal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 USC §103(a) – Hisano in view of Payne and Further in view of Mortimer

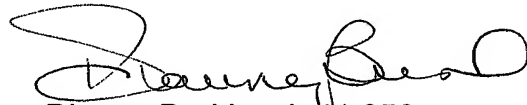
Claims 15-17 and 36-38 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hisano in view of Payne as applied to claims above, and further in view of Mortimer (US 4,985,296).

In view of the Declaration of Kevin E. Dove, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection is rendered moot. Removal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are now in form for allowance. If further questions remain, Applicant requests that the Examiner telephone Applicant's undersigned representative before issuing a further Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,



Dianne Burkhard, 41,650
W. L. Gore & Associates, Inc.
551 Paper Mill Road
P.O. Box 9206
Newark, DE 19714-9206
(302) 738-4880

Date: Oct. 4th, 2007